Fire Prevention

Keeping your home safe from fire is a hot-button issue.

Not all fires are created equal. Although all fires can bring injury, destruction and death, fires caused by smoking materials cause more fatalities than any other.

While the number of fatalities due to fire has decreased by 16 percent, it is necessary to remain alert to the dangers. Most home fires are due to careless or thoughtless behavior, and are easily preventable. With proper attention, fires and the destruction and injuries they bring can be avoided by everyone.

Fire Risks

- Leaving lit cigarettes, candles or stoves unattended
- Using cooking equipment as a heat source
- Failing to maintain smoke alarms, space heaters

Tips for Prevention

- Put matches, lighters and candles out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Do not leave children alone near lit candles, fireplace or other open flame.
- Install smoke detectors on every level, particularly outside of sleeping areas.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen, near the furnace, in the garage, or anywhere else a fire might start.
- Never smoke in bed. Always completely extinguish smoking materials before dumping ashes.
- Don't leave food cooking unattended.
- Don't use appliances with worn or exposed wires.
- Have chimneys inspected and cleaned every year.
- Use only approved space heaters with automatic shut-off controls and have them serviced annually.
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and replace the batteries twice a year, when you change your clocks.
- Gas or charcoal grills should only be used outdoors. Exercise caution when handling or igniting propane or lighting fluid.
- Make sure fireplaces, outdoor firepits and other sources of open flame are completely screened and enclosed.

Celebrating
Safe Communities